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the imagination of juvenile readers, and to make them discontented with a life stranded on the flats of civilization. The author shows himself a man of indomitable courage and perseverance, of noble and generous doing and daring, and of a refinement of taste and feeling which contracted no soil from coarse and vile surroundings.

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3. — *Gan-Eden: or Pictures of Cuba.* Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 236.

THIS book is well named. It is pictorial throughout, and the artist has won an enviable place among the word-painters of the day. Without formal narrative or elaborate description, he sheds over his readers the enchanting influences of that Eden of the Western world. His style, not studiously ornate, is rich with the spontaneous outcroppings of a fancy exuberant in beauty, and with the equally spontaneous affluence of high literary culture. His enthusiastic appreciation of all that nature has done for the fair island by no means makes him insensible to the human misdoings which have rendered it the abode of so much profligacy and wretchedness. His delineations of men and manners are often painfully lifelike, and indicate a moral nature as loyal to the true and the right, as his taste is to the grand and beautiful.

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4. — *Vindication of the Rights and Titles, Political and Territorial, of Alexander, Earl of Stirling and Doan, and Lord Proprietor of Canada and Nova Scotia.* By JOHN L. HAYES, Counsellor at Law. Washington. 1853. 8vo. pp. 52, 76.

SIR WILLIAM ALEXANDER, the philosopher and poet, the most brilliant man in the court of James VI. of Scotland, followed his king to London, and thenceforth renounced letters for politics. He was created a Scotch peer, with numerous titles, of which the "Earl of Stirling" is the most convenient for use, and received in 1621 a grant of Nova Scotia, with the title of Hereditary Lieutenant. This grant was confirmed by Charles I. on his accession to the throne, and three years afterward was augmented by the "charter of Canada, including fifty leagues of bounds on both sides of the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes." In addition to administrative powers almost without limit, he was authorized to appoint one hundred and fifty baronets, and nearly fifty of the present baronets in Great Britain actually hold their rank in virtue of patents granted by him. He devoted his entire fortune to

the colonization and defence of his domains; and when Nova Scotia fell into the hands of the French, he received a nominal grant of £10,000 sterling to indemnify him for his losses. This sum still remains unpaid. During the subsequent political troubles of the seventeenth century, the Stirling estates in Scotland passed into other hands, while the Transatlantic claims of the family were necessarily in abeyance during the French occupation of the American provinces. Shortly after the restoration of Canada and Nova Scotia to the British crown, the last male heir of the Stirling family died, leaving his rights by the Scottish law (confirmed by express provision in the royal charters) to the eldest female heir. She died unmarried, and her sister and legal heir married William Humphrys, and became the mother of Alexander, who now claims the titles of his illustrious ancestor, and demands, as his legal and equitable due, some consideration for the lapse of his territorial inheritance and the suspended debt due to his family. By the proper processes of law he established his title in the Scottish courts, and from 1825 to 1837 he voted as a peer of Scotland. He was recognized as Earl of Stirling at various times by the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Justices of the King's Bench and the Court of Common Pleas, and the Privy Council. It seems certain that his titular honors would have been left undisputed, had he not, in 1832, in a petition to the king, preferred his claim for the debt incurred by Charles I. to his ancestor, amounting, with interest, to £110,000. This claim was no doubt regarded as the precursor to still more formidable demands, and from that time the crown officers for Scotland commenced a series of hostile measures, designed to brand the claimant with ignominy as a fraudulent pretender. Their master-stroke was a prosecution for forgery. The principal charge related to signatures bearing date 1706, 1707, and 1712, appended to documents indorsed upon a map, known to have been first published in 1703, but the incriminated copy of which has the inscription, "Par Guillaume de l'Isle, *premier géographe du Roi*," a title which was not conferred upon De l'Isle by royal patent till 1718. This anachronism was the point chiefly relied upon for the prosecution. Experts pronounced the questioned signatures genuine. At the same time, it was shown to be at least highly probable that De l'Isle had assumed the title of First Geographer before it was formally conferred upon him. That he did so is now beyond dispute, for there exists in this country a full collection of his original maps, on no less than thirteen of which, published between 1703 and 1718, the title "*Premier Géographe*" is inscribed. The jury acquitted Lord Stirling, notwithstanding the strongest efforts of the court and the officers of state to insure his conviction; and the

verdict was received by the people of Edinburgh with so strong demonstrations of enthusiasm, that he escaped with difficulty from being made the hero of a triumphal procession and a popular ovation.

The domains granted to the first Earl of Stirling included, in addition to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Canada, a considerable portion of Maine, Michigan, and Wisconsin, together with a strip of land reaching from the head-waters of Lake Superior to the Gulf of California, and "the lands and bounds adjacent to the said gulf on the west and south, whether they be found a part of the continent or mainland, or an island, as it is thought they are, which is commonly called and distinguished by the name of California." Of course, the immensity of these claims is alone sufficient to defeat them. Such grants were in almost every case inevitably futile; for it was in the nature of things impossible for individual subjects to extend and maintain acts of ownership over the paper empires which kings, as ignorant as they were reckless, were ready to cede for a song. But if the present claimant is indeed (as we believe him to be) the legal representative of the first Earl, there can be no doubt that he is, morally speaking, entitled to the principal and interest of the debt secured by royal bond to his ancestor, and that it would not be unworthy the magnanimity of both the British government and our own to tender to him some honorable consideration for the entire loss to his family, through the fortunes of war, of revenue and benefit from the *bona fide*, and for the times immense, outlay of his ancestor in the colonization of the Western wilderness. He is now in this country, engaged in measures preliminary to the further prosecution of such of his alleged rights as he can hope to see recognized. The book before us was written by one of his legal advisers, and is characterized by lucidness of statement and cogency of reasoning. We have also on our table a manuscript opinion of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, expressing his entire concurrence with Mr. Hayes "as to the facts and principles of law stated" in his argument, and closing as follows: "Although Lord Stirling, on account of the vastness of his legal rights, has failed thus far to secure their full recognition, we are of opinion that, when his case is fairly presented for compromise, the British government cannot wisely or honorably refuse him a most liberal sum for the surrender of his vast rights and privileges, including, besides the right to many millions of acres of public land in the Colonies, the right of fishery on the coasts of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, the rights of viceroyalty, and the extraordinary privilege of creating baronets, all secured by undoubted characters, and confirmed by the highest judicial and official sanction."

5. — *The School for Politics. A Dramatic Novel.* By CHARLES GAYARRÉ. New York: Appleton & Co. 1854. 24mo. pp. 158.

MR. GAYARRÉ has already made himself favorably known in literature by his "History of Louisiana," a work which displayed not only fidelity and enthusiasm, but liberal and elegant culture. Whether, since the time of that publication, he has been worsted in some political adventure by a worse man and by foul means, we are unable to say. If this be so, he has avenged himself most gracefully in the book before us. If not, he has entered into a gratuitous championship of political integrity against reigning agencies and systematized modes of corruption. The object of this drama is to illustrate the various ways in which votes are bargained for, opinion manufactured, interest played off against interest, and even friendship and love put up at auction, on the eve of an important election. The picture is hardly overdrawn, though a foreigner might take it for a caricature. Its execution is worthy of the author's reputation; and a very well devised love-plot running through it will make it readable by those who cannot apprehend its political bearing, and have no need of its rebuke.

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6. — *History of Newburyport, from the Earliest Settlement of the Country to the Present Time. With a Biographical Appendix.* By MRS. E. VALE SMITH. Newburyport. 1854. pp. 414.

THE history of one of our little municipalities hardly furnishes sufficient scope for a person of genius, and may perhaps be most successfully executed by one whose mental retina can be subtended by the boundary lines of his native town. The main defect of this book is that it lacks the air that would have been given to it by an author who could conceive of no nobler work. In the biographical sketches, and in other portions of the narrative that possessed intrinsic claims upon her interest, Mrs. Smith has done full justice to her taste and vigor as a writer; but she has been at no pains to dress up insignificant details, or to relieve the dryness of the annals for uneventful periods. Yet even in these parts of her work she has evidently employed all due industry and fidelity, and has omitted no materials of history that could on any account be worth preserving.